Eastleigh and Bishopstoke Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1915.

Physical Features.—The Urban District of Eastleigh and Bishopstoke is situated in a low lying area supplied by two streams. A part of the district, separated from the main portion by a considerable area of marshy ground, is on a somewhat higher level.

Soil.—The subsoil is of gravel, with an upper stratum of clay, and the subsoil water is on an average 12 feet from the surface.

Occupation of Inhabitants.—The chief occupation of the inhabitants is in connection with the L. & S. W. Railway construction and repair works. The workshops in which the work is carried on are in every way satisfactory from a hygienic standpoint.

Area and Population.—The area of the district is 2,031 acres, the estimated civil population for 1915 being 14,638.

Birth Rate.—The birth rate for the year is 21.93, the actual number of births being 322. The corresponding figures for 1914 were 21.78 and 324 respectively.

Death Rate.—The death rate for the year is 10.58, that for 1914 being 8.6.

Infantile Mortality.—The death rate for infants under one year is 43.47 per 1,000 births. The actual number of deaths were 14.

The rates for the previous five years are—

67.2 in 1914;
61.7 in 1913;
43.7 in 1912;
84.2 in 1911;
48.1 in 1910.

Infectious Diseases.—During the year 84 notifications were received, viz:—Diphtheria, 12; Erysipelas, 14; Scarlet Fever, 28; Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 1; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 24; other forms of Tuberculosis, 5.

During the early part of the year there were a number of cases of Measles, and at the end of the year an epidemic of Mumps was started. There were also a great many cases of Whooping Cough. There were two fatal cases of Whooping Cough, both children under one year, one fatal case of Scarlet Fever, and one of Measles.

Isolation Hospital.—Forty-two cases of Infectious Diseases were admitted to the Hospital. They comprised:—

Scarlet Fever,	25	(Civilians),	Fatal,	One.
Diphtheria ..	11	"	"	Nil.
Diphtheria ..	4	(Military)	Fatal,	Nil.
Scarlet Fever,	1	"	"	"
Measles ..	1	"	"	"

There is no local provision for treatment of Tuberculosis. The houses are visited, disinfectants supplied, and the rooms disinfected after removal of patients.

The Schools.—The Schools were regularly inspected; the Sanitary condition is on the whole good. Medical Inspection is under the control of the County Medical Officer.

The Bishopstoke Schools were closed in July on account of Measles and Mumps.

Housing Accommodation is on the whole good. There is a slight shortage of houses. Three have been built during the year. Under the housing regulations, 600 houses were inspected, and defects were found in 218 of a minor nature. No closing orders were made. 250 notices were served for defective ashpits and dustbins, with the result that 100 sanitary dustbins were supplied. 90 notices were served for other defects, and all remedied, except 28 which are in process of being carried out.

Scavenging.—The refuse is now collected by direct labour, both in Eastleigh and in Bishopstoke. Where possible, the refuse is collected from the backs of the premises. Further efforts to obtain sanitary dustbins in place of the defective receptacles used in a number of cases, have resulted in 100 being supplied; the number would have been greater, but great difficulty was experienced in obtaining them from the makers.

The refuse is deposited in a tip, well away from the Town.

Sewerage System.—The system in use in the whole of the modern portion of the district is that of the water carriage system, the sewage being disposed of by land treatment, the effluent being discharged into tidal waters. There are still a few cesspools in use, and in the outlying district the privy and pail systems are used. A considerable portion of the land used in disposing of the sewage has been levelled during the year, thus enabling treatment to be carried out more effectively.

The Water Supply is mainly from the South Hants Water Company and is good and sufficient. There are still a few wells in use in the outlying parts of the district. No case of pollution of streams has been notified.

The Milk Supply.—There are about 220 cows kept by cow-keepers registered in the District. A considerable portion of the milk supply comes from outside the District. The cow sheds are well drained and generally well kept.

Slaughter Houses.—There are Seven in the Town; their condition is good and they are generally well kept. 800 inspections were made and parts of 18 pigs were destroyed on account of Tuberculosis.

Bakehouses.—These are all above ground and well kept. There are no Offensive Trades or Common Lodging Houses in the District.

Food and Drugs Act.—Under the Food and Drugs Act 45 samples were taken by the County Council Authorities, and nine were found adulterated. The samples taken were 18 of New Milk, 11 of Butter, one of Cheese, one of Cocoa, one of Flour, four of Ice Cream, two of Jam, two of Lard, one of cream, two of Whiskey, and two of Vinegar. Eight samples of New Milk and one of Vinegar were found adulterated, and fines were imposed in three cases.

Factory and Workshops Act.—There are 68 Workshops in the District, and 204 inspections have been made during the year. There are four outworkers and 12 inspections have been made.

The Bye-laws in use are on the Local Government Board model.

During the year Soldiers have been Billeted in the Town, and 1,500 inspections of billets have been made.

The War Office took over the Railway Institute, the Recreation Ground, the Chamberlayne Road Schools, and the waste land adjoining in Chamberlayne Road, and erected a Clearing Hospital of over 1,000 beds.

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